<u>**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**</u>

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 7 as follows:

This application is a continuation-in-part of Patent Application No.(~~Atty. Docket No. M-9723 US~~) 09/760,059, entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SORTING PRODUCTS BY FEATURES," filed 1/12/01 and having C. Connors, A. Miller, J. Walsky, J. Van Dyke, J. Singh and A. Leamon as inventors(which claims priority to Provisional Patent Application No. 60/176,117, entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS OVER A DATA NETWORK," filed 1/14/00 and having J. Walsky and S. Aboel-Nil as inventors); and is related to Patent Application Nos.(~~Atty. Docket No. M-9722 US~~) 09/760,062(filed 1/12/01) and(~~Atty. Docket No. M-9722-1P US~~)(filed herewith) 09/770,137(filed 1/26/01), both entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCT COMPARISON," and both having C. Connors, A. Miller, J. Walsky, J. Van Dyke, J. Singh and A. Leamon as inventors, and Patent Application Nos.(~~Atty. Docket No. M-9724 US~~) 09/760,061(filed 1/12/01) and(~~Atty. Docket No. M-9724-1P US~~) 09/770,522, filed 1/26/01, both entitled "SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FACILITATING COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS OVER A DATA NETWORK," and both having J. Walsky as inventor. These applications are assigned to Trilogy Development Group, Inc., the assignee of the present invention, and are hereby incorporated by reference, in their entirety and for all purposes.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 3 as follows:

Fig. ~~22~~ 22A and Fig. 22B, referred to herein generally as Fig. 22, ~~illustrates~~ illustrate an example of a database structure that can be used in the database of Fig. 21.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 25, line 9 as follows:

Each of the blocks of Fig. 19 may be executed by a module(e.g., a software module) or a portion of a module or a computer system user using, for example, a computer system such as the storage router previously mentioned, or a similar network element, as well as a computer system such as computer system ~~210~~ 10. Thus, the above described method, the operations thereof and modules therefore may be executed on a computer system configured to execute the operations of the method and/or may be executed from computer-readable media. The method

may be embodied in a machine-readable and/or computer-readable medium for configuring a computer system to execute the method. Thus, the software modules may be stored within and/or transmitted to a computer system memory to configure the computer system to perform the functions of the module.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 31, line 15 and ending on page 32, line 7 as follows:

Fig. 22 illustrates an example of a database structure that can be used in database 2060. This database structure(exemplified in Fig. 22 by a database structure 2200) includes information regarding various product configurations(e.g., vehicle equipment configurations) and the attributes that make up such configurations, for example. This information can be held in a configuration table 2210 and an attribute table 2220, respectively, which are simply example representations of structures which may be used to maintain such information. Configuration table 2210 includes identifier fields 2230(1)-(N), configuration fields 2240(1)-(N) and intersection fields 2250(1)-(N). A record in configuration table 2210(exemplified by one of configuration table records 2255(1)-(N)) includes a corresponding one of each of identifier fields 2230(1)-(N), configuration fields 2240(1)-(N) and intersection fields 2250(1)-(N). Each of configuration table records 2255(1)-(N) corresponds to one of the configurations created by ~~research~~ database manager 2120 from a corresponding one of product data bases 2110(1)-(N). In other words, the configuration represented by the corresponding one of configuration fields 2240(1)-(N) is generated from the product database corresponding to the given product using the information and rules contained in the corresponding one of product databases 2110(1)-(N). Thus, each configuration generated from product databases 2110(1)-(N) by ~~research~~ database 2120 appears in configuration table 2210 as one of configuration fields 2240(1)-(N) and can be accessed as such using the corresponding one of identifier fields 2230(1)-(N) for example. Also provided as part of configuration table 2210 are intersection fields 2250(1)-(N). Intersection fields 2250(1)-(N) allow access to attribute table 2220 from a given one of configuration table records 2255(1)-(N).

Please replace the Abstract on page 49 with the following amended Abstract:

~~A software architecture, method and apparatus are disclosed. The software architecture includes a database layer and a services layer(coupled thereto). The software architecture can~~

also include a module layer, that may include a needs analysis module(coupled thereto). The services layer can include a filter service and the needs analysis module configured to permit identification of a product based on attribute information. The filter service can be configured to provide a product identifier to the needs analysis module in response to a product attribute received from the needs analysis module, where the product identifier identifies a product, and the product attribute is an attribute of the product. Similarly, the database layer can include a database, with the filter service being configured to use the product attribute to retrieve the product identifier from the database. Additionally, the needs analysis module can be configured to permit identification of a product configuration based on product identifier information via a configuration service in the service layer, which can be configured to provide a configuration list to the needs analysis module in response to a product identifier received therefrom.

A computer system provides product selections to a user according to a needs analysis. A database stores pre-generated product configurations and product configuration information. The product configuration information includes product features and product rules governing allowable combinations of the product features. Received product related data can include different types of information such as attribute information and product identifier information. The received product related data is processed to determine the type of received information. If the type is attribute information, the received product related data is filtered in accordance with the product configuration information and one or more product configurations that meet requirements of the received attribute information is identified. If the type is product identifier information, one or more of the pre-generated product configurations that corresponds to the received product related data is identified. Each identified product configuration and each identified pre-generated product configuration is provided to the user.